

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 32, with the following:

A1
A related AIN application is the provision in a voice frame network of an interface between an intelligent peripheral such as an interactive voice response unit and a gatekeeper. Such an interface based on ITU H.323 and H.450 is described in co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [[]] 09/609,201, filed June 30, 2000 entitled VOICE FRAME NETWORK GATEKEEPER-TO-INTELLIGENT PERIPHERAL INTERFACE METHOD AND APPARATUS, ~~which co-pending application was filed on the filing date of the present application.~~ The co-pending patent application is assigned in common with the present application to Cisco Technology, Inc. and its disclosure is incorporated herein by this reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13, with the following:

A2
Fig. 3 illustrates the conventional protocol architecture 34 for TCAP-based SCP by which the TCAP transaction and component and processing as layers over the SS7 network provides a TCAP message handling interface 46 between the AIN 0.1/0.2 protocol and message set 44 and application processes 42 and the SS7 network and SCCP/MTP protocol 48. Those of skill in the art will appreciate that TCAP functions are grouped into two portions: a transaction portion 50 and a component portion 52.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 19, with the following:

The transaction portion 50 identifies whether the TCAP transaction is expected to include single or multiple messages and provides an application-level associated over which components are exchanged. Also, the transaction portion 50 provides a way to indicate whether its content is the only message in this exchange or the portion of the message in an extended exchange of information (i.e., first, middle, last). This is necessary in SS7 networks since a SS7 message can not exceed 272 bytes. If a SS7 message for an AIN service contains more than 272 bytes, it will be broken into more than one piece, with each piece being fitted into one SS7 message.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page ~~5~~, line ~~32~~, with the following:

A3
Fig. 4 shows an example of a H.323 network for voice frame network such as VoIP services. Fig. 4 illustrates how a PSTN 22 and a network 24 such as the Internet are made to communicate via one ~~more~~ or more gateways (GWs) 26a, 26b. PSTN 22 may be seen to provide access to a SCP 14 and an SSP 10. Network 24 may be seen to provide access to a gatekeeper (GK) 28 and one or more ITU H.323 endpoints (EPs) 30, 32. Notably, the illustrated architecture provides no access to AIN services provided by SCP 14 and SSP 10 to a ITU H.323 gatekeeper 28, endpoint 30, 32 or other ITU H.323 entity. This is the problem addressed by the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page ~~8~~, line ~~17~~, with the following:

AK
Fig. 5 shows the protocol architecture 36 for H.450.1-based SCP by which the H.450.1 APDU 36c as a layer over the H.323 protocol 36d provides a H.225 message handling interface between the existing AIN 0.1/0.2 protocol and message set 36b and application processes 36a and the H.323 network and TCP/IP protocol 36e. Those of skill in the art will appreciate by contrasting Fig. 5 with Fig. 3 that H.450.1 provides no transaction sub-layer as does TCAP. Only the Invoke ID operation is available to maintain a conversation between a H.323 SCP and a GK. The transaction ends when the OPERATION Return Result or Return Error or Reject is received. However, most current AIN services, e.g. 800 and LNP, use only a single query-response transaction between an SSP and the SCP. Accordingly, this seeming limitation of H.450.1--whereby it provides no transaction sub-layer or multiple component capability--is overcome in accordance with the invention.